

### Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 45 and 46 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1 and 23 to read as follows.

1. (Currently amended) An image recording apparatus for recording an image by applying a coloring material on a recording medium, comprising:

recording means for applying the coloring material in accordance with image data;

conveying means for conveying the recording medium so as to permit recording on both a first recording side and a second recording side of the recording medium, said conveying means including ~~reversing means for reversing the recording medium~~ a plurality of conveying paths;

setting means for variably setting a length of time between an end of recording on the first recording side of the recording medium and a start of recording on the second recording side of the recording medium in accordance with the image data for recording on the first recording side of the recording medium; and

control means for controlling a conveying operation by said conveying means such that recording on the second recording side of the recording medium by said recording means is started after passage of time set by said setting means, wherein

~~after recording on the first recording side of the recording medium, the recording medium is conveyed to a recording medium waiting position such that the conveyed recording medium comes close to said reversing means, and then after waiting for a period corresponding to the length of time set by said setting means at the recording medium waiting position, the recording medium is conveyed to a position opposed to said recording means so as to conduct the recording on the second recording side of the recording medium~~ said control means switches the conveying paths for conveyance in accordance with the time set by said setting means.

2. (Previously presented) The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the coloring material is ink, and the length of time set by said setting means is set in accordance with a number of applications of ink on the first recording side of the recording medium.

3. (Previously presented) The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the coloring material is ink, and the length of time set by said setting means is set in accordance with a number of applications of ink on the first recording side of the recording medium and a kind of the recording medium.

4. (Previously presented) The image recording apparatus according to claim 2, wherein when the number of applications of ink is a first number, a first length of

time is set, while when the number of applications of ink is smaller than the first number, a second length of time shorter than the first length of time is set.

Claim 5 (cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the coloring material is ink, and the length of time set by said setting means is set in accordance with a duty of recording on the first recording side of the recording medium.

Claims 7-9 (cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the coloring material is ink, and the length of time set by said setting means is set in accordance with an application amount of ink on the first recording side of the recording medium.

Claims 11-22 (cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) An image recording method for recording an image by applying a coloring material on a recording medium in accordance with image data by recording means, comprising the steps of:

conveying the recording medium so as to permit recording on both a first recording side and a second recording side of the recording medium, said conveying step utilizing ~~reversing means for reversing the recording medium~~ a plurality of conveying paths;

variably setting a length of time between an end of recording on the first recording side of the recording medium and a start of recording on the second recording side of the recording medium in accordance with the image data for recording on the first recording side of the recording medium; and

controlling a conveying operation of the recording medium such that recording on the second recording side of the recording medium by the recording means is started after passage of time set in said setting step, wherein

~~after recording on the first recording side of the recording medium, the recording medium is conveyed to a recording medium waiting position such that the conveyed recording medium comes close to the reversing means, and then after waiting for a period corresponding to the set length of time at the recording medium waiting position, the recording medium is conveyed to a position opposed to the recording means so as to conduct the recording on the second recording side of the recording medium~~ said controlling step switches the conveying paths for conveyance in accordance with the time set in said setting step.

Claims 24-46 (cancelled)